

# the Overtimes

News for the People in Montgomery County Government

November/December 2003



**Women's History Quilt** – The Commission for Women marked its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year and unveiled a quilt created by former CFW President Anne Sanderoff-Walker. The quilt, which is on display at the commission offices, features a central square (above) surrounded by 30 squares celebrating women of historical significance in Montgomery County.

## Counseling Services Available Through Commission for Women

Montgomery County's Commission for Women is among few in the country to also operate a counseling and career center. The center provides individual personal and career counseling, along with couples counseling. Support groups, workshops and classes on a variety of issues are offered, as well as legal call back services and professional training for counselors and social workers.

"Some of the issues that bring individuals in for personal counseling include relationship issues, anxiety and depression, separation and divorce adjustment, low self-esteem and transitions," said Counseling and Career Center manager Elma Rambo. "And

while our career counselors don't provide job placement services, they do help with other career and workplace issues."

All of the center's services are available to both men and women, County and non-County residents. County residents are charged fees for counseling sessions on a sliding scale based on income. Non-County residents are charged a slightly higher fixed fee.

A sampling of the many workshops and classes offered on a regular basis include an AAA workshop on car maintenance, a self-defense class presented by the Park Police, a

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## Annual MLK Birthday Celebration

Montgomery County's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday celebration is planned for Monday, January 19, at the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College. The celebration will take place in the Globe Hall Auditorium beginning at 3 p.m.

The Commemorative Committee is again seeking nominations for its annual Humanitarian and "Children of the Dream" awards. Nominees must be County residents who have demonstrated – through deeds and activities — their commitment to perpetuating the goals and ideals communicated by Dr. King. Nominees for "Children of the Dream" awards – which will be presented to two high school students – must have demonstrated outstanding community involvement as an individual volunteer or as part of an organization. All nominees must have been actively involved in a program or activity during the past year to qualify.

Nomination forms can be obtained by calling 240-777-2500. Questions about the annual celebration can be directed to Christine Clarke in the County Executive's Office.

## December 8 Blood Drive

There's a blood drive Monday, December 8, in the EOB Auditorium from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. To make an appointment, call 1-800-448-3543 or 240-777-5086. Please help give the gift of life!

## Overheard On the Elevator



Farewell to **LINDA WEED**, Recreation, who retires from County service on December 1 after 34 years, all of which were spent in the Department of Recreation. (Linda is the daughter of

former employee, Myrtle Rundell who retired several years ago from Personnel and is the sister of Dianne Rundell who works for the Department of Public Works and Transportation.)

Congratulations to **ANGELA FRIZZELL**, Council Office, who received numerous ribbons at this year's State and County fairs for her buttermilk biscuits (first place at both fairs), Mediterranean biscuits, Swedish coffee cake, tropical pound cake and fudge pie.

**JACKIE HAWKSFORD** and **LINDA LAUER**, both of the Council Office, recently became first-time grandmothers. Jackie became a grandmother on September 27 when her daughter gave birth to grandson Devon Edward. Linda became a grandmother with the birth of granddaughter Denver Ruth, born on August 14. Congratulations to both!

Congratulations to **RAY WIMBROUGH**, Public Works and Transportation, and his slow pitch softball team, which won the National Senior Softball Championship in Des Moines, Iowa during the Labor Day weekend. Wimbrough, who pitches for the team, hit five home runs during the course of the tournament. The team also won the National Senior Olympics in Virginia Beach last May.

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**Marcella Meynard**, County Executive's Office, retired from County service after 26 years as a first-line telephone operator for Montgomery County. Meynard started her career in the Department of Family Resources and worked out of an office at the former Rockville Mall. She more recently worked in the County Executive's office as part of the Information & Referral staff, fielding hundreds of calls daily from citizens and employees. Meynard has no immediate plans for retirement except to take it easy and spend more time with her two grandchildren.

## Commission For Women

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program for first time homebuyers and a Myers-Briggs indicator for couples. New workshops are offered every month and are open to everyone. Pre-registration is required and fees are typically \$10 for a two-hour, one session group and \$45 for two-session testing workshops. Other fees for classes vary depending on the number of sessions and length of the workshop.

The Center has a diverse and highly trained professional counseling staff that includes licensed clinical counselors and licensed clinical social workers, as well as other career and mental health counselors who have experience working with multi-cultural clients.

While the commission office has a very dedicated staff of professionals and support

staff, Rambo freely admits that they would be in dire straits without the volunteers who give so much of their time, serving as information and referral specialists, graphic designers and public relations assistants. High school students also volunteer their time to fulfill their community service requirements.

"Our volunteers are wonderful and without them we could not provide the many services that we do," said Rambo. "Volunteers are the cornerstone of the Commission and we are always looking for individuals to fill a wide range of positions."

The Commission for Women Counseling and Career Center celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year and moved into new offices at 401 N. Washington Street in Rockville. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. For additional information and a schedule of workshops, go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw).

## Don't Forget to Use Your Personal Leave Days

You'll lose your personal leave days if you don't use them by January 10, 2004, the last day of the leave year. Remember, you can't carry them over to the next leave year and you must have your supervisor's approval to use personal leave days.





On his last official day on the job, Rob Todd (center) joined co-workers in the Public Information Office at a farewell lunch held in his honor. Todd retired from County service after almost 30 years. Pictured with Todd are Publications and Graphics staff members David Jeo (left) and Thom Whorton.

## Information Office Says Goodbye to One of Its Own

When Rob Todd came to work for the County in 1974 as a graphic designer, the Publications and Graphics function was part of the print shop and was housed on the first floor of the Council Office Building. Almost 30 years and several department and building changes later, Rob retired from County service on December 1.

Rob started his career with the County as a graphic artist, becoming a supervisor in the mid-80's. In recent years, his duties expanded to managing cable productions for the Executive branch and content and design of the County web site.

"Rob has proven that good management skills and a willingness to learn can quickly overcome an initial lack of experience," said PIO director David Weaver.

"I have been extremely fortunate to have someone of Rob's caliber working on my staff. With his retirement, he leaves a tremendous void in our office and he will be missed by all of us."

When Rob started with the County, the tools used by graphic artists included drafting boards, waxers, exacto knives & clip art. Now, 30 years later, graphic designers spend most of their time in front of a computer. Rob has worked closely with departments and offices throughout the County designing everything from the publications and signage to visuals for large public events and press briefings.

As far as his immediate plans for retirement, Rob plans on taking it easy, enjoying life and spending more time on his boat.

## Election Judges Needed for 2004 Elections

The Board of Elections is looking for individuals to serve as election judges at polling places on Primary Election Day, March 2, and General Election Day, November 2.

In accordance with the Election Code, judges must be registered to vote in Montgomery County. They must also be able to speak, read and write the English language, and must not hold or be a

candidate for public or party office.

More than 3,000 election judges are needed. In addition, election judges and alternates who speak Spanish are needed throughout the county. Training will be provided and all judges will be compensated.

To apply, or for more information, call the 240-777-8570 (Democrats) or 240-777-8575 (Republicans).

## HR Notes

### Office of Human Resources

#### General Wage Adjustments

General wage adjustments for OPT, SLT, and fire/rescue bargaining unit employees will be effective on November 30<sup>th</sup> and will be in December 26<sup>th</sup> paychecks.

#### Deferred Compensation Open Season

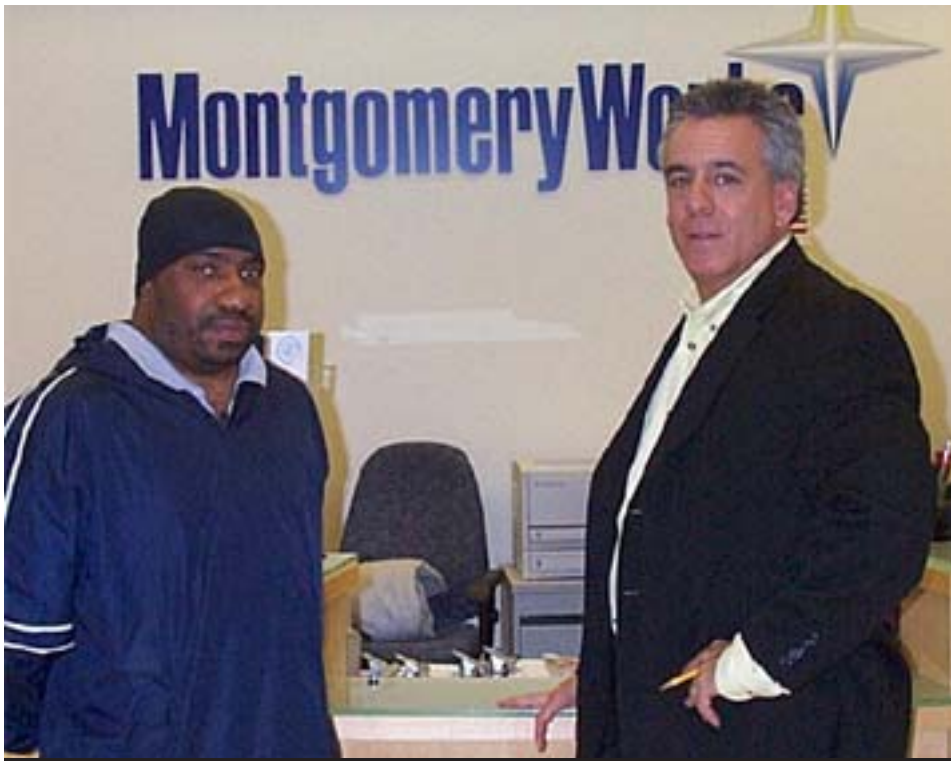
From December 1-31, you can enroll in the County's Deferred Compensation Plan, change your contribution amount, change providers, or add a second provider. The maximum contribution amount for 2004 for most employees has increased to \$13,000 per year or \$500 per pay period for 26 pay periods. The over-50 catch-up limit is now \$16,000 or \$615.38 per pay period. If you submit your documentation to OHR before December 16, your new contribution amount will be reflected in the paycheck of January 9. For more information, call Fidelity Investments at 1-800-430-2363 or The Hartford at 1-800-243-7782, X207. OHR, EOB 7th floor, has forms and provider packets. If you have access to the County intranet, you can make changes at any time and choose the future pay period when your changes will take effect. Just go to <http://portal.mcgov.org/ohr-ts/ohr.cfm>.

#### New Group Insurance Plan Year Begins

If you made changes to your benefits during the recent transfer season, those changes will be effective January 1, 2004. Check your pay stub on January 9, 2004 to make sure that your deductions are correct. If you changed health plans, remember to schedule your physician appointments and prescription refills under the old plan before the start of the new plan year. Your new health plan should send you new ID cards before the first of the year if you submitted your primary care provider selection forms directly to MAMSI or to OHR for Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

#### Health Plans Funding Arrangement Changes

Effective January 1, the County will make funding changes to the Carefirst and Optimum Choice health plans. None of the changes affect benefit levels or plan provisions. The Carefirst POS and Indemnity plans will convert to a self-insured funding arrangement with Carefirst providing administrative services only. The Optimum Choice HMO will convert to a self-insured funding arrangement and will provide administrative services only.



Eric Seleznow, Workforce Investment Services director, (right) served as a mentor to Russell Evans during disability mentoring day. Evans was learning about different programs and services offered at the MontgomeryWorks One Stop Workforce Center in Wheaton.

## Students with Disabilities Explore County Government Careers

Sixteen students from Montgomery College glimpsed the inside world of government as part of Disability Mentoring Day, with help from 12 County employees who served as their mentors. The mentors represented a range of employment fields, from finance and Global Information Systems to recreation and health and human services. Each of them created a learning opportunity for the students to help them explore potential careers.

Disability Mentoring Day is hosted nationally by the American Association of People with Disabilities in close partnership

with the U.S. Department of Labor. The event promotes internships and employment opportunities for students and job seekers with disabilities. Last year, more than 3,500 mentees participated nationwide.

Disability Mentoring Day also serves to promote disability as a central component of diversity recruitment for a more inclusive workforce, dispel employers' fears about hiring people with disabilities, increase confidence among students and job seekers with disabilities, and launch a year-round effort to foster mentoring opportunities.

Happy  
Holidays!

## *In Memoriam*

**David Hevesy**, 52, Department of Public Works and Transportation, passed away on November 10 after waging a courageous battle with cancer. Dave came to work for the County three years ago in DPWT's Division of Capital Development.

Dave's family and friends thank everyone who kept Dave in their prayers and for the generous donations of sick leave.

He is survived by his wife Barbara Jean.



**Richard G. Goehler**, former director of the Montgomery County Board of Elections, passed away on October 19, at his home in West Virginia.

Goehler served as the election director from June 1999 through December 2000. Prior to joining the Board of Elections, Goehler worked in the Department of Recreation.

## County Earns 2003 Best of the Web Award

Montgomery County's web site captured first place nationwide for a county government portal page in the Center for Digital Government's 2003 Best of the Web Awards. The award was presented on October 23 at a formal awards presentation in New York City. The Center for Digital Government is an international research and advisory institute on information technology in government and education.

"This recognition is wonderful. We have strived to offer the best portal and on-line services possible to our citizens and are constantly trying to improve our offerings," said Department of Technology Services Director Alisoun Moore. "We like to be innovative and forward thinking in our technology initiatives and set a pace that is ahead of the curve."

The annual awards are presented to web sites that are innovative, efficient and offer easily accessible on-line services. The sites are also judged on their ability to communicate well with citizens, businesses and educational communities.

"Capturing first place in the Best of the Web contest reflects Montgomery County's true commitment to the citizens and businesses of its jurisdiction," said Center for Digital Government executive director Cathilea Robinett.

**HOUSE FOR RENT** – The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is offering a house for rent on Willard Avenue in Chevy Chase. The single-family, 4-bdr., 2.5 bath house with W/D is walking distance to metro, shopping and parks. Close to American University. A perfect opportunity for “shared” housing. \$3,311/month. Call 703-848-4315.

**CONDO FOR RENT** – Rockville. Large 2-bdr., w/den, 1.5 baths, large walk-in closet, W/D. All utilities inc., except electricity (heat is gas). Pool, free use of storage, close to Metro, Ride On, schools, Montgomery College. Call 240-506-1108.

## Backpage Bargains

County employees may submit ads, non-commercial only, with name and home and office phone number to Information Office, 4th floor, EOB. Ads may appear one time only. Deadline for the next issue is January 16.

**VACATION CONDO** – Florida Keys. Beautiful 2-bdr., 2 bath waterfront condo in Key Largo w/balconies overlooking Florida Bay. TV/VCR, A/C, full kitchen w/microwave. Beach, pool, tennis, laundry. Quiet, spacious. Call Dave at 301-897-3424.

**FOR SALE** – Jazzy Power Chair 1100 (electric wheelchair). Indoor/outdoor use, adjustable seat height and angle. Battery

charge, 300 lb. weight capacity. Programmable, micro-process joystick. \$1,500/negotiable. Call 301-528-1151.

**BICYCLE** – women's Huff 21-spd. hybrid. Like new, used only a few times. Silver. \$85. Call Helene, 301-251-0706.

**FOR SALE** – children's winter jackets, very good condition, \$10+. Two sets of twin-size mattresses, fair condition, \$35 for both. Brand name teenage girls' clothing, great condition, great prices. Call 301-299-2133.

**TABLES** – solid cherry coffee table and two end tables. Great condition. \$275. Call 301-972-6855.

☐ Payday

## 2004 Payday/Holiday Calendar

Holiday ☐

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
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MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
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SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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New Year's Day - Thursday, January 1  
 Martin Luther King's Birthday - Monday, January 19  
 Presidents' Day - Monday, February 16  
 Memorial Day - Monday, May 31  
 Independence Day - Monday, July 5

Labor Day - Monday, September 6  
 Veterans' Day - Thursday, November 11  
 Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 25  
 Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24  
 New Year's Eve - Friday, December 31